

**State of Utah, Department of Workforce Services  
Wasatch North Regional Council Meeting  
DWS Ogden Employment Center  
Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

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**Attendees:**

Kathleen Alder	Alder & Associates
Byron Beck	Browning, Morgan County
Darcy Blakemore	Manpower
Rhonda Boren	Ogden / Weber Applied Technology College
Paul Evans	Harmony Home Health & Hospice
Melissa Freigang	Clearfield Job Corps Center
Commissioner Alan Hansen	Davis County Commission
Steven Hoellein	Felt Auto Parts
Randy Hopkins	State of Utah, Department of Workforce Services
Gary Knapp	Enable Industries
Mark Murray	Utah Public Employees Association
Brent Petersen	Davis Applied Technology College
Lou Seamons	Davis County School District
Lynette Stevens	Council Member, Morgan County
Leslie Trottier	D.W.S. Child Care Resource and Referral
Toni Ure (Chair)	Chromalox
Bonnie Williams	State of Utah, Division of Rehabilitation
Commissioner Jan Zogmaister	Weber County Commission

**Excused:**

Sharon Anderson	Family Connection Center
Pamela Clark	Family Support Center of Ogden
Larry Facer	Plumbers Local 348
Sylvia Godfrey	Hill A.F.B.
Mike Hadley	Wells Fargo, Davis County
Richard McConkie	Neighborhood Development Division
John Petroff	J.P.'s #1 American Car Care
Cecil Robinson	State of Utah, Juvenile Justice Services
Julie Snowball	Weber State University
Randy Welsh	Utah Transit Authority

**Guests:**

Loma Prince	Ogden Adult Education
Sue Myers	Weber Adult Education

**Department of Workforce Services Staff:**

Dixie Baughman	Program Specialist
Lesnie Foster	Program Specialist
Kathy Leiker	South Davis Employment Center Manager
Greg Paras	Roy Employment Center Manager
Carrie Peterson	Administrative Secretary
Koral Vasquez	Ogden Employment Center Manager
Susan Wright	Regional Council Liaison

1. **Welcome**

Toni Ure, Wasatch North Regional Council Chair, called the meeting to order. All Council members, and Department of Workforce Services (D.W.S.) staff were welcomed to the meeting.

The following new Council members were introduced –

Darcy Blakemore - Manpower

Mark Murray – Utah Public Employees Association (U.P.E.A.)

2. **Consent Calendar**

Toni Ure called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup>, and January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 meetings.

**Action:** Steve Hoellein made the motion, Gary Knapp seconded, and the Council unanimously approved the minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup>, and January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 meetings.

3. **Manufacturing Industry Roundtable Events**

The Wasatch North Region Council motioned to develop the sector strategy and deliverables for the Manufacturing industry at the January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 meeting. As a result, the Workforce Development Roundtable meeting was planned for February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The goal of the meeting was to gather information and identify what can be impacted by the Council's sector strategy for the North Region (Weber, Morgan, Davis Counties).

Toni Ure, Brent Petersen, and Rhonda Boren provided an overview of the outcomes from the manufacturing industry roundtable meetings. The goal is inform and educate parents and students of the available career opportunities.

A workforce development white paper has been written, by Ron Kusina, who serves on the Weber Economic Development Committee, to recognize the “Critical Need for a Technically-Skilled Workforce in the Top of Utah, Barriers and Proposed Solutions”. The purpose of the paper is to show how Northern Utah’s continued economic growth is dependent on a highly skilled workforce, with the majority needed in technical fields. The paper explores workforce development issues, and concludes with an overview of some innovative solutions. According to Weber Economic Development Corporation, the number one issue of importance to companies looking to relocate in Northern Utah, and to existing businesses alike, is the ability to hire skilled workers. Currently, the demand for skilled workers is outpacing the supply of people ready to fill even high-paying positions. To address this need, it is critical that the region improve its workforce readiness in critical economic clusters by increasing the number of technically educated persons in those industries. A number of factors prevent workers from entering technical fields at the rate industry requires them. Consequently, changes are needed to remove barriers and increase awareness about how individual choices affect the broader economy.

Ron Kusina challenged the roundtable meeting attendees with a call to action to take the recommendations to the Governor’s task force.

Rhonda Boren will e-mail the white paper, bullet points of Ron Kusina's call to action, and the speech from which the challenges were issued to the Council.

**Action Item:** Randy Hopkins will take the Council’s recommendations to Kristen Cox, D.W.S. Executive Director. She will take the recommendations to Governor’s task force. Randy Hopkins will keep the Council apprised of the progress being made at the state level.

4. **Auto Industry Sector Report**

Steve Hoellein reported the outcomes from the statewide auto industry sector meetings. The goal of the meetings is to inform and educate parents and students of the available career opportunities. The "Motor-fest" event is being planned for the industry and students. This will be the second year the event has been planned. Steve Hoellein expects the "Motor-fest" event to be successful, however there continues to be an image problem for the auto industry.

Steve has suggested promoting the automotive industry by relating it to the smog and inversion problems facing Utah. He explained that 50% of the inversion is attributed to automobiles. In order to clean the air, people will need automotive centers with qualified technicians. He recommended changing the perception at the school level, as he would like the automotive curriculum to be offered in the schools.

Steve would like "Motor-fest" events to be conducted across the State, as they provide an opportunity for parents and students to learn about the careers. He expects the image problem will be resolved.

5. **Regional and State Youth Council Reports**

Melissa Freigang reported the State Youth Council wants to provide skill enhancement activities for youth. All the regional councils are involved in these activities.

6. **State Council Report**

Melissa Freigang provided a report on the State Council meeting held April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

- DWS continues to work on the five identified goals:
  1. Customer Service
  2. Prevention
  3. Global Competitiveness
  4. Innovation
  5. Employee Success
- Mark Knold, D.W.S. Research Consultant, provided an informational overview of the economy. The presentation included job growth in Utah, as it is used to measure the state of the economy.
- Mike Richardson, D.W.S. Director of Legislative and Government Affairs, provided a summary of the Legislative Session. Mike Richardson would like the to identify best practices and apply them to the regions.
- D.W.S. will continue to work with the Department of Education to move forward with the sector strategies.
- Randy Hopkins explained that Kristen Cox has asked the Governor to assign the topic to a task force.
- The Work Force Investment Act (W.I.A.) and Wagner Peyser Three Year Funding Comparisons were reviewed.
- Prepaid credit cards will be used for employment and training, the approved providers include universities.
- Randy Hopkins explained that D.W.S. uses prepaid credit cards for unemployment insurance, and financial benefits.

7. **Regional Chair's Report**

Toni Ure provided a report to address Regional Council issues.

- She thanked those who supported and participated in the roundtable meetings.
- The topic of training providers was discussed as a regional issue. It was recommended at State Council meeting that the approval pathway for training vendors be changed. It is being recommended the approval process be changed, to no longer require regional council approval for training vendors. The reason for the change is to eliminate additional steps from the process.
- The State Council would like the regional councils to devote their efforts to the sector industry approval processes.

- Gary Knapp asked if a vote would be needed to approve the action.
- Toni Ure explained the State Council is asking for a vote from the Council Chair. She explained she would like to gather information prior to making a recommendation on the Council's behalf.
- D.W.S. will review the requests from the training vendors.
- The recommendation from the State Council is that the list of recommended training providers be distributed to the State Council as an overview.
- Gary Knapp offered his perspective that the training provider schools could “shop” the different regions to get approved. He recommended the training vendors requests be directed to D.W.S. and reviewed by the State Council.
- Toni Ure will send the vote for the Wasatch North Regional Council.

8. **Regional Director's Report**

Randy Hopkins provided a report on Departmental issues.

- Kristen Cox would like to focus on the goal of prevention by addressing recidivism. Randy Hopkins has called “High School Drop-out Reduction” collaboration meetings. They have been conducted to provide a forum to discuss how to reduce the dropout rate for the Ogden City Schools area. D.W.S. will be working with education and their partners to develop their recommendations.
- The committee is working to focus on one or two schools for the Ogden City School District.
- Brent Petersen asked when D.W.S. would be reviewing Davis County.
- Randy Hopkins offered not to neglect Davis County.
- A G.E.D. pilot will be conducted for a small group of D.W.S. T.A.N.F. customers. The customers will focus their efforts on attaining their G.E.D. with their 30 hours each week of approved activity. D.W.S. currently counts ten hours a week towards G.E.D. completion for the participation rate. The pilot will be for a group of 20 customers to work full time to attain their GED. The program will start June 16<sup>th</sup>. D.W.S. is checking on the possibility of a cash bonus for the participants.
- Randy explained that for the G.E.D. pilot, D.W.S. would be working to help the customers eliminate their barriers so they can direct their efforts to obtain their G.E.D.
- Randy Hopkins explained that he is happy to be working for D.W.S., as it is a fluid, dynamic, and thriving organization.

9. **Other Business**

Ronda Boren distributed invitations to the Workforce Development Open House. She asked for the Council's support.

Steve Hoellein recommended including Weber and Ogden City School Districts.

There will be a \$2.7 million dollar grant to make composite training effective in the State.

10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.